

**INDIANA ARTS COMMISSION
QUARTERLY BUSINESS MEETING**

September 18, 2015
E.B. Ball Mansion
Muncie, Indiana 47306

Nancy Stewart, Chair

Minutes

Members present: Kathy Anderson, Gil Cárdenas, Pam Hicks, Jeff Kirk, Linda Levell, Jennifer Perry, Allen Platt, Al Rent, Sherry Stark, Nancy Stewart

Members via teleconference: Susan Hardwick

Members absent: Micah Smith, Karen Ellerbrook

Arts Commission staff present: Sarah Fronczek, Becca Hopson, Stephanie Pfendler, Lewis Ricci, Paige Sharp, Adrian Starnes, Rex Van Zant

Guests: Scott Wylie (RAP Chair), Miah Michaelson (Deputy Director Designate)

1. Welcome and Introductions. Commission Chair, Nancy Stewart, called the meeting to order at 9:15 a.m. and asked everyone to introduce themselves. She welcomed new commissioner Jennifer Perry and Deputy Director Designate, Miah Michaelson. Ms. Stewart expressed her excitement to serve with the Commission in an effort “to impact the cultural, economic and educational climate of Indiana by providing responsible leadership and public stewardship of artistic resources with the vision of arts everywhere, everyday, for everyone.”

2. Consent Agenda. Commissioner Nancy Stewart moved to adopt the consent agenda for today’s meeting. Al Rent seconded the motion. The motion passed by unanimous consensus. Linda Levell moved to adopt the minutes from the June 19, 2015 meeting of the Commission. Commissioner Pam Hicks seconded the motion. This motion, too, passed by unanimous consensus.

3. Chair and Executive Committee Report

A. Chairs Report.

1. Financials.

- a. Arts Commission Executive Director Lewis Ricci presented a handout (attached) showing the agency’s FY 2015 Year End budget. Mr. Ricci noted minor variances in actual and projected values, reserve funds used to close out personnel costs, and 2 untouched pools of income (Donation & Central Indiana Community Foundation Funds) culminating in a carryover amount of \$753,192 into FY16. Mr. Ricci thanked Adrian Starnes, Grants Manager of the Indiana Arts Commission, for closing out the year, sans Deputy Director.
- b. Mr. Ricci presented a handout (attached) showing the FY 2016 Year to Date financials, noting the carryover from FY15 exceeded the projected amount. Elaboration on specific line items, followed. Due to bicentennial projects, the Commission will be operating under a 2% reserve. Mr. Ricci further explained 3 grant programs, while budgeted, have not been funded. Thus, it will be determined by the Commission, dependent upon the number of qualifying grants, how those designated funds will be apportioned.

2. **Commissioner Appointments.** Mr. Ricci reported that with Jennifer Perry replacing Jon Ford and Karen Ellerbrook and Pam Hicks continuing to serve, we are currently down one voting member of the commission. Mr. Ricci has been in contact with the Office of the Governor regarding possible candidates with news hopefully by December.

3. **Expanded Committee for Governor's Arts Awards, Saturday, April 9, 2016.**

Previously planned in partnership with other groups, Nancy Stewart reports that this year the responsibility of planning the Arts Awards is solely the Commission's. Planning will focus on the Bicentennial year of the State and coinciding 50th anniversary of the Commission. Trevor Yager, Kathy Anderson, and Al Rent have been in committee to plan what happens during the awards, now a committee will be formed to plan those events that surround the actual ceremony. Logistics were discussed regarding invitees, reception, performances and awards. The Governors home has been offered to host the reception. Mr. Ricci added that talks with the Bicentennial commission have included the possibility of conducting the awards without an attached fee for guests.

4. **Executive Director Report**

A. **Staff Update.** Mr. Ricci alluded to the previous introductions of new staff members.

B. **Technical Assistance/Capacity Building Update.** IAC staff members, along with Commissioners Trevor Yager and Susan Hardwick, vetted 38 proposals and determined none are fundable as submitted. Mr. Ricci cited possible causes and continued that while fragmented, 4 main ideas emerged, some of which may become fundable in this fiscal year. The next step in the process requires brokering relationships with these applicants to create more comprehensive results. Fundable possibilities include proposals in the access category submitted by Arts Mix and the Indiana University Center on Aging. Mr. Ricci further reported that while it didn't fit into the RFP, per say, Arts United of Fort Wayne proposed to extend the economic impact study they conducted for their region, to the rest of the state, which he considered valuable. For next year, other viable possibilities come from the categories of fundraising for boards and outcomes, as well as, creative place making.

C. **National Partnerships Updates.** Mr. Ricci reported that he will be attending the NASAA Leadership Institute and praised new Executive Director, Pam Breaux. He also commended NEA chairman, Jane Chu, for holding the line on current federal funding, adding that because of the NEAs 50th anniversary we will be collaborating with a video production company to highlight Indiana artists and organizations in a 3 minute video spot. Discussion continued with Art Midwest's public will initiative to change basic perceptions of art.

--Break--

5. **Committee Reports**

A. **Programs, Grants & Services Committee.**

1. **AOS and APS modification policy change.** Commissioner Al Rent presented the AOS and APS Modification Policy Change form (attached) for a vote and provided his recommendation to accept. Paige Sharp, Arts Commission Director of Programs, elaborated on the revision which aligns more realistically with not-for-profit organizations and their continual budget fluctuations. The modification adjusts when an APS and AOS will be required to report such changes to the Commission.

Commissioner Al Rent moved the Commission to vote on the modification.
Commissioner Pam Hicks seconded the motion. Unanimous consensus followed.

Anderson	Yes
Cárdenas	Yes
Hardwick	Yes
Hicks	Yes
Kirk	Yes
Levell	Yes
Perry	Yes
Platt	Yes
Rent	Yes
Stark	Yes
Stewart	Yes

The motion passed.

2. Bicentennial Program update.

- a. Arts Commission Community Development Manager Rebecca Hopson presented a handout (attached) and discussed the 81 total applications received by individuals and organizations for the nascent Arts in the Parks program. Ms. Hopson further specified that of the 81 proposals some touch on more than one park, resulting in a total of approximately 124 actual projects. Only 8 of the 33 DNR properties were not included in the applications received. Mr. Ricci continued that since response does not match the allotted funding, once the paneling process concludes which projects qualify for funding, it will then be decided if a 2nd application round is necessary. Ms. Hopson further discussed the collaborative nature of this program. Commissioner Gil Cárdenas pointed out that it may be a good idea to package the programs that get funded and circulate those around the state. Mr. Ricci concurred that consideration has been given to budgeting to promote such a program.
- b. Paige Sharp reported that of the original 104 intents to apply, the Indiana Masterpiece Program received 69 applications equaling \$920,158 in total requests. The available funding equals \$160,000 for FY16 and FY17. Mr. Ricci elaborated that applicants could apply for up to \$20,000 and most did. Because the majority of projects will go forward with or without Art Commission funds, the next step is to determine at what level the Commission will want to support these projects. After the paneling process and committee discussion recommendations will be brought to the Commission for action at the quarterly business meeting in December.
- c. Ms. Sharp reported that the bicentennial medal process is coming to a successful close. After a blind selection process, the final medal design was chosen. It was discovered that the chosen artist, Donna Weaver, is a well known coin designer and has worked with the US mint. The Native American Commission contacted her to see if she could integrate a symbolic representation of First People into the design and was happy to integrate that, as well. Commissioner Kathy Anderson asked where and when the medal will be available. Ms. Sharp responded that the bicentennial commission would like to have them for sale in the latter part of November at the Historical Society.
- d. Ms. Sharp presented a visual rendering of the Bicentennial Plaza and reported that of 104 eligible artists 8 finalists have been selected. The 2 final designs will be selected October 5th.

3. **PACE update.** Sarah Fronczek, Arts Commission Community Development Manager & Arts Education Coordinator, presented a handout (attached) highlighting the four PACE pilot programs and discussed the assessment tools being used to track the progress of these programs. With Mr. Ricci, she reported that it has been budgeted to take on two new schools in this fiscal year. Letters of interest will be vetted, viability will be determined and site visits will be conducted, culminating in proposals due by the end of November and finalized by approval of the Commission at the December quarterly business meeting. Mr. Ricci continued that because the Bicentennial is fleeting he would like to start the process of conceptually positioning PACE under the Indiana Masterpiece umbrella. The forward thinking conceit is to include schools and those students as our future “Masterpieces”. Mr. Ricci would like to begin this conversion by highlighting these programs as part of the Governors Arts Awards. He adds that if the first lady endorses this forward thinking concept of the Indiana Masterpiece in a public way, it helps us to make that transition in decision makers minds. The hope is that legislators will have a propensity to continue funding at the same level beyond the bicentennial year for legacy programs. Ms. Fronczek extended an invitation to any Commissioner to accompany her on future, site visits.
4. **New “Lay of the Land” grant levels revisit.** With 22% of operational grant organizations moving up in budget category, Mr. Ricci explains that it is time to either validate or change our stratification of funding by the end of the next fiscal year. The goal is to inaugurate these changes prior to the next two year funding cycle. Mr. Ricci mentions that Deputy Director designate, Miah Michaelson, may want to take a lead on this since she was a member of the previous panel. Further stating that her external viewpoint will bring a great perspective and sensitivity to the process surrounding this evaluation.
5. **Charting State wide impact of direct funding.** Paige Sharp presented a color coded map (attached) describing the 12 regions, the number of applicants per county and the number of those applicants actually funded. She continued that the current map only shows where the funding goes, not necessarily where the service occurs, which will re-strategize the questions we ask our grantees in future reporting to “get a better representation of how those funds are leveraged.”

B. Committee on the Future.

1. **Cultural Trust.** Rex Van Zant, Arts Commission Director of Marketing and Communications, presented a handout (attached) showing the current activity and balance of the Cultural Trust. The current data shows that 54 new plates were added to the 489 renewed in July.
2. **Strategic Plan Update.** Commissioner Sherry Stark reminds everyone that this year we are doing the survey of artists, organizations and communities with help from Ball State University’s Building Better Communities program and the Indiana University School of Public and Environmental Affairs. Consultants Brian Blackford, Susan Zurbuchen and Sara Peterson have been helping with this process, pro bono, and Ms. Stark and Mr. Ricci will be meeting with them again on September 28th. The assembled Steering Committee is planning to convene 3 times, beginning next year. Mr. Ricci added that there are other state wide community initiatives which the Commission has been invited to be a part of: The Regional Cities Initiative, Stellar Communities Program, and the Indiana Visioning Committee all of which have a cultural component. Conversely, representatives from all of these initiatives will have a place on our steering committee.
3. **Communications report.** Mr. Van Zant presented the communications report highlighting the most popular visits on our website: Grants, Arts in the Parks and Indiana Masterpiece. Mr. Van Zant commended Ann Fields, Arts Commission Communications and Community Engagement Manager, for facilitating the increase in social media coverage.

4. **Governors Arts Awards Report.** Mr. Van Zant reported that after the close of the nominating period, concluding on September 1st, there are 65 nominees to consider. For the awards themselves, there are a total of 14 submissions. The next step is to finalize in committee.
5. **Regional Arts Partners Update.** Scott Wylie, Chair of the Regional Arts Partners Consortium, reported that for the first time we have a full contingent of partners across the State, ranging from community foundations to traditional arts organizations. The initiative of the staff has been to simplify for the partners, because the reality is that a number of those partners are working for much less financial support than they were 10 years ago. Mr. Wylie commended Susan Mendenhall for doing a tremendous job of keeping the boat going in a steady way and hopes to follow in her footsteps so that the mission of these organizations can be fulfilled.

6. **Old Business/New Business.** There was no old or new business to report.

7. **Closing Comments.** Nancy Stewart reports that Allen Platt has graciously decided to host the March quarterly Business meeting. She thanked everyone for their committee work, which makes the Commission meeting go so much smoother. Finally, Ms. Stewart thanked Al Rent for hosting such a wonderful reception and cultural tour of Muncie.

8. **Adjourn.** Commissioner Kathy Anderson moved to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Al Rent seconded the motion. Unanimous consensus followed:

Anderson	Yes
Cárdenas	Yes
Hardwick	Yes
Hicks	Yes
Kirk	Yes
Levell	Yes
Perry	Yes
Platt	Yes
Rent	Yes
Stark	Yes
Stewart	Yes

The motion passed. The meeting adjourned at 11:30 a.m.